

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 06284 141001Z
ACTION EA-12

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, TW
SUBJECT: FOOD CHAIN IX

REF: (A) STATE 046188, MARCH 2, 1977
(B) TAIPEI 1268, MARCH 8, 1977
(C) TAIPEI 1291, MARCH 9, 1977
(D) STATE 16132, MARCH 19, 1977
(E) TAIPEI 4158, JULY 11, 1977
(F) TAIPEI 4280, JULY 15, 1977

1. EMBASSY HAS HELD PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION WITH TDC ON
FOOD CHAIN IX WHICH IS SCHEDULED FOR MAY, 1978 AND FOR
WHICH TDC HOPES TO BEGIN DETAILED PLANNING BY NOVEMBER 1.
WE BELIEVE THAT A SCALED-DOWN EXERCISE WITH FEWER U.S.
PARTICIPANTS FROM HERE AND OFF-ISLAND CAN BE ACHIEVED
WHICH WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH PRESENT POLICY CONSTRAINTS
AND WOULD STILL PRODUCE A USEFUL, INSTRUCTIVE U.S.-ROC
EXERCISE. NO SPECIFIC PLANNING OR EXTENSIVE

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DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GROG CONCERNING 1978 FOOD CHAIN WILL
BE UNDERTAKEN WITHOUT STATE-DOD APPROVAL.

2. TDC IS PROPOSING THE FOLLOWING FORMAT:

A. A ONE-WEEK PRE-EXERCISE PERIOD DURING WHICH
THE GROG MILITARY WOULD CONDUCT ITS OWN WAR GAMES,

WITH SOME U.S. OFFICERS INVITED AS OBSERVERS.

B. A THREE-DAY FORUM OF TDC J-HEADS WITH THEIR ROC COUNTERPARTS TO DISCUSS GENERAL PROBLEMS OF IMPLEMENTING PLAN ROCHESTER.

C. A 36 TO 48-HOUR COMMAND POST EXERCISE (CPX), BASED ON A SHORT-NOTICE ATTACK.

D. A SHORT AFTER-ACTION CRITIQUE FOR THE AMBASSADOR AND PREMIER ON THE DAY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE CPX.

3. TDC IS CONVINCED THAT A CPX WITH U.S. OFF-ISLAND PARTICIPATION IS ONLY WAY TO PROVIDE U.S. AND ROC MILITARY THE OPPORTUNITY THEY NEED TO A) EXERCISE COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS RESPONSIBILITIES RELATED TO PLAN ROCHESTER, AND B) EVALUATE THE RELIABILITY OF PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT WITH "HANDS-ON" ACTIVITIES. THE SCENARIO PROPOSED BY TDC WOULD ALSO CORRESPOND CLOSELY TO WHAT GROC MILITARY LEADERS ANTICIPATE FOR FOOD CHAIN IX. FINALLY, WE BELIEVE THAT COMBINED FORUM AND CPX CAN HAVE FEATURES BUILT INTO IT WHICH WOULD IMPRESS ON THE ROC THE NEED FOR PRUDENT AND CAUTIOUS BEHAVIOR IN THE TAIWAN STRAIT AS SUGGESTED IN PARAGRAPH 1A OF STATE 046188. WE ARE COORDINATING WITH TDC ON SCENARIO WITH THIS IN MIND.

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4. TDC'S SUGGESTED FORMAT WOULD BE BOTH SMALLER AND SHORTER THAN FOOD CHAIN VIII. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF U.S. PLAYERS WOULD BE FEWER THAN 200, WITH LESS THAN 100 COMING FROM OFF-ISLAND. TDC APPRECIATES NEED TO GET THAT NUMBER AS LOW AS POSSIBLE AND IS STAFFING QUESTION OF WHAT THAT MINIMUM MIGHT BE. (TOTAL NUMBER OF U.S. PLAYERS IN FOOD CHAINS CONDUCTED IN 1976 AND 1977 WAS APPROXIMATELY 270 BOTH YEARS. ABOUT 107 PLAYERS CAME FROM OFF-ISLAND IN 1976 AND ROUGHLY 146 CAME FROM OFF-ISLAND IN 1977.) FOOD CHAIN IX WOULD BE ABOUT ONE-THIRD AS LONG AS FOOD CHAIN VIII. PARTICIPATION BY OFF-ISLAND FLAG OR GENERAL OFFICERS NOT CONTEMPLATED. IN 1976 THERE WERE TWO FLAG/GENERAL-RANK OFFICERS PARTICIPATING, AND IN 1977 THERE WAS ONE.

7. EMBASSY AGREES WITH TDC THAT FOOD CHAIN IX CAN BE CONDUCTED ACCORDING TO THE SCENARIO OUTLINED ABOVE IN A WAY WHICH BOTH MEETS OUR DESIRE TO SCALE DOWN THIS EXERCISE AND PROVIDES A USEFUL OPPORTUNITY TO EXERCISE PLAN ROCHESTER.

8. TDC WOULD LIKE TO START JOINT PLANNING WITH THEIR
ROC MILITARY COUNTERPARTS BY NOVEMBER 1 AND WE WOULD
THEREFORE APPRECIATE WASHINGTON GUIDANCE FOR FURTHER
COORDINATION WITH TDC BEFORE THAT DATE.
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